

Message

From: Revilla, Belen [Revilla.Belen@epa.gov]
Sent: 3/8/2022 1:51:05 PM
To: **Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)**
CC: Kasman, Mark [Kasman.Mark@epa.gov]
Subject: FW: OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS (OIA) WEEKLY REPORT: February 28 - March 11, 2022

FYI -

From: Kasman, Mark <Kasman.Mark@epa.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 7, 2022 6:52 PM
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OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS (OIA)

February 28– March 11, 2022



FUTURE EVENTS OF NOTE

March 10 – Second Zero Carbon City International Forum, virtual

OITA AA Jane Nishida will deliver remarks to open Day 2 of this forum that is co-hosted by the Ministry of the Environment, Japan and the U.S. Office of the Special Presidential Envoy for Climate. This forum is part of the Japan-U.S. Global Local Zero Carbon Promotion Initiative that Administrator Regan helped to launch at COP 26 at Japan's Zero Carbon Cities side event [Novikoff, Socci, Westrate]

March 9-11 – G7 2nd Environment, Climate & Energy Deputy Ministers' Meeting, virtual

OITA AA Jane Nishida will lead the USG Delegation to the 2nd G7 Environment, Climate, and Energy Deputy Meetings, hosted by G7 President Germany. The three-day meeting will feature a joint session of Environment and Climate/Energy officials as well as separate sessions focused on Environment issues, including biodiversity, oceans, and sustainable use of natural resources.

[Nishida, Finman, Huber, Torney, Westrate]

March 7-8 – OECD Task Force on Climate Change Adaptation Meeting, virtual

The Task Force on Climate Change Adaptation (TFCCA) will hold its fourth meeting under the OECD Working Parties on Climate, Investment, and Development and Biodiversity, Water, and Ecosystems. The meeting will facilitate the sharing of updates on recent national and international adaptation developments among delegates; update members on key ongoing project developments with a view to seek members'

guidance and orientations for future work; and allow members to share views and priorities on new potential adaptation priorities. Colleagues from USGS will give remarks on how the U.S. is adapting to extreme wildfires. [Socci, Westrate]

March 9 – UNEP Lead in Paint Community of Practice Discussion on Lead Paint Testing in the Field: Case Studies of Impact, virtual

EPA spearheaded planning for this UNEP-sponsored discussion between global lead paint practitioners to exchange experiences about the impact of lead paint testing in their countries, featuring case studies from Malawi, Nepal and Ecuador. Interested participants can [Register here](#). [Bandemehr]

ITEMS OF NOTE

Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP@50)

On March 4, Administrator Michael Regan delivered the National Statement for the United States during the Plenary of the Special Session of UNEP@50, joining leaders from more than 70 countries and international organizations around the world for a two-day event to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations Environment Programme. Administrator Regan highlighted the many successes of UNEP, including the phaseout of lead in gasoline through the Partnership for Clean Fuel in Vehicles, and emphasized the importance of confronting the challenges of climate change, conserving biodiversity, and focusing efforts on our vulnerable and underserved communities. [Finman, Besch, Huber]

UNEA 5.2 Passed Historic Resolution that Launches Negotiations of International Agreement Addressing Plastic Pollution

Marking the culmination of six years of discussion on the growing threat of plastics to the environment, Member States agreed last week at UNEA 5.2 to a landmark resolution that starts the process of developing a global, legally binding instrument on plastic pollution. The resolution entitled “End plastic pollution: Towards an international legally binding agreement” calls for an International Negotiating Committee (INC) to negotiate a global agreement on plastic pollution that addresses the full lifecycle of plastic and takes an ambitious, innovative, and country-driven approach. The resolution calls for the INC to aim for completion of negotiations by the end of 2024. OITA participated on the U.S. delegation virtually due to COVID restrictions. The INC will commence with an Ad Hoc Open Ended Expert Group during the first half of 2022 to discuss rules and procedures of INC negotiations as well as agenda, timeline, and other logistics for this new treaty process. [Sims, Horan]

United Nations Environment Assembly 5.2, Nairobi, Kenya

The resumed session of UNEA-5 (UNEA-5.2) took place in Nairobi, Kenya, February 28-March 2 under the theme, “Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.” The assembly adopted 14 resolutions as well as political declarations on the 50th anniversary of UNEP. In addition to the agreement to launch an intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop a legally binding instrument on marine litter, EPA also played a key role on a resolution on metals and minerals, including critical minerals. The resolution asks UNEP to hold regional consultations to set up a global intergovernmental meeting to enhance the environmental sustainability of metals and minerals along their full lifecycle. EPA staff led negotiations in Nairobi on the Circular Economy, Sustainable and Resilient Infrastructure and COVID-19 resolutions. The Circular Economy resolution highlights the need for more action, with a wide variety of stakeholders, to capture under realized climate benefits. The sustainable infrastructure resolution, which includes water infrastructure, encourages countries to conduct environmental impact assessments, promote nature and sustainable infrastructure, and provide opportunities for stakeholder engagement throughout the infrastructure lifecycle. This resolution supports ongoing EPA work to raise environmental standards and safeguards at major lending institutions such as the World Bank. EPA staff also provided technical input and negotiation support that resulting in the establishment of a science-policy panel on chemicals and waste which has long been sought by the global community. The science-policy panel resolution will establish an ambitious

and comprehensive science-policy panel to provide scientific assessments and provide evidence-based policy options on issues around the sound management of chemicals and waste and preventing pollution. Member states agreed to the dates for UNEA-6 which is scheduled for February 26th – March 1st, 2024. [Besch, Horan, Sims, Huber, Finman]

Arctic Council Member States Issue Statement on Engagement with Russian Federation

Canada, the Kingdom of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, and the United States have issued a joint statement condemning Russia's unprovoked invasion of Ukraine and note the grave impediments to international cooperation, including in the Arctic, that Russia's actions have caused. Representatives from these Arctic States will not travel to Russia for meetings of the Arctic Council, which Russia currently chairs. Additionally, Arctic Council member states are temporarily pausing participation in all meetings of the Council and its subsidiary bodies, pending consideration of the necessary modalities that can allow the Council's important work to continue in view of the current circumstances. [Finman, Huber, Torney]

EPA-German Green Procurement Meeting

On Thursday, February 28th, German officials met with USEPA to discuss shared best practices in green procurement. Topics of discussion included Germany's new Circular Economy Act, and the German government's experience with green procurement. German delegates shared that calculating products' life cycle GHG emission was a known challenge for them. USEPA shared how the EPA was implementing E.O. 14057, and progress made through the Buy Clean Taskforce. USEPA also shared how the Energy Star label worked for manufacturing plants. USEPA and the German delegation also discussed procurement of high GHG impact product plans for vehicles, IT products and furniture. [Buckley, Rosen]

Webinar with Colombia on Emissions Inventories

EPA staff, along with an expert from Costa Rica, delivered a webinar on the development of emissions inventories to an audience of over 100 from Colombia's Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MADS) and other invitees. This is the second in a series of three webinars on air quality issues being coordinated between EPA and MADS as a result of a meeting last summer between EPA Deputy Administrator Janet McCabe and Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development Carlos Eduardo Correa to discuss opportunities for collaboration. The third and last webinar will be held later in March. [Hong]

Meeting with the American Society for Testing and Materials International (ASTM International) on Lead Paint Testing Webinars

EPA (OIA, OA/EPA Standards Executive, R5) met with ASTM International's Committee on Paints and Varnishes staff coordinator, ASTM's international training coordinator and the director of global policy and international trade. ASTM International agreed to collaborate with EPA to host several regional lead paint testing training webinars, potentially in Latin America and the Caribbean and Africa and including translation as needed. EPA will explore whether the United Nations Environment Program regional offices in those regions would be interested in co-sponsoring the webinars on behalf of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint. ASTM will set up regular meetings to plan the webinars. [Bandemehr]

US-UK Trade Engagement

TEP attended on February 28 a briefing by USTR of the inter-agency group about plans for engaging the UK on trade issues, but the bottom line is that trade negotiations with the UK remain suspended. Furthermore, USTR does not intend to establish with the UK a mechanism for continuous consultations that would be comparable to the US-EU Trade and Technology Council (TTC), despite the perception that post-Brexit UK is eager for closer trade ties with the USA. The briefing included a preview of an announcement, expected by March 4, on a meeting in Baltimore between U.S. Trade Representative Tai and her UK counterpart in March, with a meeting in the UK of Deputy USTR White with his counterpart in April. [Almeida]

Build Back Better World (B3W) – Climate Small Group

TEP attended a meeting, convened by the NSC on March 3, of the B3W small group focused on climate-related infrastructure projects sponsored by the U.S. in foreign countries, with the overall objectives to mobilize finance, develop metrics, and promote U.S. exports. This meeting focused on projects in the Indo-Pacific region. USAID and DOE are supporting projects for coal phaseout, grid improvements, offshore wind, and industrial decarbonization in Vietnam. Coal phaseout is likewise planned for Indonesia, along with energy efficiency and reducing methane emissions in the waste sector. Sectoral decarbonization is planned for India, along with the deployment of clean energy technologies. TEP conveyed the EPA can support the efforts on metrics development and contribute experience with waste management for methane emissions reduction. A meeting on March 11 will focus on the Western Hemisphere, with special attention to Brazil, Mexico and the northern triangle of Central America. Select projects will be featured in the B3W public announcement, at a date to be determined. [Ziegler, Almeida]

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 21-25 – Minamata Convention on Mercury COP4.2, Bali, Indonesia

March 21-23 – OECD Global Forum on Environment and Climate Change, virtual

March 21 – G20 Water Dialogue, hybrid, Yogyakarta, Indonesia

March 22-23 – G20 1st Environment and Climate Deputy Ministers' Meeting, hybrid, Yogyakarta, Indonesia

March 22-23 – G7 Meeting on Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy, virtual

March 30-31 – OECD Environment Ministerial, Paris, France

April 4 – U.S. – Canada Bilateral Environment Meeting

April 5-6 – G7 3rd Climate & Energy Deputy Ministers' Meeting, TBD

April 7 – US-Mexico Border 2025 Tribal listening Session, virtual

April 8 – US-Mexico Border 2025 Launch Meeting, virtual

April 7-8 – G7 3rd Environment Deputy Ministers' Meeting, TBD

April 12-13 – Our Ocean conference, Palau

March/April – EPA will hold eight webinars with the Brazilian National Water and Sanitation Agency (ANA) and USGS on Water Quality Enforcement and Compliance on the following topics: Overview and Principles of Environmental Compliance and Enforcement, Clean Water Regulatory Framework, Compliance Monitoring, Compliance Sampling, Enforcement Response, Municipal Sector Focus, Industrial Sector Focus and Review of Compliance and Enforcement Program Components

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